

## Worcester Jobs Fund Oversight Committee

October 22, 2020

10:00 a.m.

Via WebEx

### Meeting Minutes

WJF Oversight Committee Attendance: Karen Pelletier, Fred Taylor, Maritza Cruz, Jeff Turgeon, and Janice Ryan Weekes.

WJF Staff: Kelsey Lamoureux

Guests: Ethan Brown

- The meeting was called to order after a quorum was established.
- All attendees introduced themselves, their positions and their organizations.

#### Approval of September 24, 2020 Meeting Minutes:

- The meeting minutes from the September 24, 2020 virtual meeting were reviewed and J. Turgeon made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by M. Cruz and unanimously approved.

#### Economic Development Updates:

- E. Brown provided a summary of the October Construction Diversity Monitoring Committee meeting including details on discussions with Gilbane Building Company and R.P. Masiello, Inc. E. Brown noted that Gilbane is making a strong effort to meet goals for Polar Park and that this is R.P. Masiello's first time working on a project with diversity goals so they are still adjusting their data tracking and reporting methods.
- F. Taylor noted that the 6 Chatham St. project currently has 0.1% hours completed by women. Because this is R.P. Masiello's first project with diversity goals, they were given resources and to support them in meeting the goals. M. Cruz noted that the committee's intention is to support contractors in implementing best practices over time. K. Pelletier stated that Gilbane held a fair with their contractors to educate the contractors on the workforce diversity expectations and recommends other general contractors do the same.
- F. Taylor requested contact information for representatives from SilverBrick that attended the October Worcester Jobs Fund Committee Meeting. K. Lamoureux stated she would provide the committee with all contact information from last month's attendees.
- K. Pelletier explained that information about guests attending the Worcester Jobs Fund Oversight Committee meetings will be released as far in advance as possible to committee members.

#### WJF Financial Update:

- Financial reports through September 30, 2020 were not yet available.
- K. Lamoureux presented an overview of planned programming and funding sources, including outstanding grant applications, for fiscal year 2021.

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### WJF Director Report:

- K. Lamoureux provided updates on current distance learning and in-person programming for School Bus Driver, CDL Class B, Clinical Medical Assistant, and Building Pathways Pre-apprenticeship trainings. K. Lamoureux stated that Worcester Jobs Fund staff is currently recruiting for the IT Support Specialist training and will begin recruiting for the next cycle of Worcester Building Pathways in November 2020.
- K. Lamoureux noted that Theodora Appiah will be returning from leave October 26, 2020.
- F. Taylor inquired about the agreement for the 340 Main St. HDIP project. E. Brown stated that the agreement is currently in development. F. Taylor requested contact information for the project representatives.

### Care That Works:

- K. Lamoureux provided information about the Care That Works pilot in Boston that is offering parents childcare options that begin as early as 5:00 a.m. K. Lamoureux stated that a meeting has been scheduled for October 27, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. with Care That Works representatives and individuals within childcare, building trades, and workforce development to assess whether a similar project would be feasible for Central MA. M. Cruz noted that the partnership includes a parent co-op that allows parents to come together to provide childcare for each other and would not be subjected to as many regulations as a childcare center. J. Weekes noted that even though the parents might not be required to follow all guidelines, we should support the parents in following best practices to ensure there is no risk to the group. M. Cruz noted that many home care providers have shut down due to the COVID-19 crisis. K. Pelletier explained that childcare is a barrier for participation within job training programs and more solutions are needed to assist parents. K. Lamoureux requested suggestions for other companies or industries to invite to the discussion whose workforce might also need early morning care. F. Taylor suggested the manufacturing and warehouse industries including employers such as Table Talk Pies and TJX. J. Weekes suggested inviting CNA employers and K. Pelletier suggested inviting EMT employers. M. Cruz noted there is a lot of concern around the disparity gap for early child education and care, especially during COVID.

### Grant Updates:

- J. Turgeon explained that the MassHire Central Region Workforce Board partnered with two central MA providers who have applied for the Senator Kenneth J. Donnelly Workforce Success Grants for ESOL-Enhanced Training and Placement Program through Commonwealth Corporation. These applications include Worcester Nightlife's application for an ESOL Welding training and Quinsigamond Community College's application for an ESOL Information Technology training. J. Turgeon also noted that the MassHire Central Region Workforce Board also supported Ascentria Care Alliance's application for the Learn to Earn Initiative: Training and Placement Pilot Program grant.

### Other Items/Announcements:

- J. Weekes stated that the MassHire Worcester Career Center is offering two virtual job fairs to jobseekers on October 29, 2020 and November 20, 2020. The November job fair is open to

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Veterans for the first thirty minutes and then open to all job seekers for the remainder of the event.

- F. Taylor informed the committee that the NAACP is accepting applications for membership and is preparing for an election on November 23, 2020.

Adjourn:

- A motion to adjourn was made by F. Taylor, was seconded J. Weekes, and was unanimously approved.

The next monthly meeting will be Tuesday November 24, 2020, at 10:00 a.m.